

White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation

Topic: Expanding the Role of Tribes, States and Communities in Cooperative Conservation

Session number: 37

Morning

Facilitator: Christine Carlson

Location: 130

- A. **Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion.** *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*
- Defining true collaboration – flexibility in partnerships, funding, objectives setting needs to be collaborative, and all stakeholders and levels of government need to be at the table.
 - Respect for roles and responsibilities at all levels
 - Recognition of local knowledge as well as technical and scientific knowledge.
 - Working relationships are needed, they take time to build and so need to be long-term and flexible.
 - Collaborations need to be flexible and not one-size-fits-all, and they should not be mandated from above.
 - Idea that there is tension b/c governments/tribes/local so building trust over time seems to be a key.
 - Keep creativity in the collaborative process. Currently there are successes that we do need to model and make sure not to cover old ground.
 - Collaborative relationships need to be built from the ground up.
 - Be optimistic, work through and build relationships.
 - Clear communication both up and down.
 - Need commitments and assurances about funding and working together to get funding. Money does help create success.
 - Improve relationships – Trust Relationship is about trust and not abusing that as a way to manipulate (or perception of it being manipulative).
 - Tribal sovereignty needs to be recognized from the out set.
 - When you talk about collaboration, there are places with a wall there (ie., species at brink of extinction) and “no, you can’t do this” because limit to actions. E.g., at Yucca Mtn nuclear waste issue.
- B. **National-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO’s, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*
- NEPA and FACA process need evaluation.
 - Tribal sovereignty government needs to be implemented in all Federal policy development and action.
 - Danger in calling something cooperation when really a hierarchy. If one entity has resources and ability to punish, it’s not really cooperation it’s really hierarchy. If one person is doing all the accomodating it’s not cooperation.
 - Cultural shift is needed in Federal agencies stressing integrated planning with local and state governments.
 - Funding is crucial to ensure successful partnerships. There are no specific fund sources for partnerships at present.
 - Federal agencies need to consult with each other to get on same page.

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- Constraint came up here on what we're saying = "we can't do that b/c rules are that way". Please don't do that.
 - Cooperative projects need to be institutionalized. People want locally driven, long-term projects. Institutionalizing the process should accommodate collaboration but not prescribe it.
 - Most of federal laws do not allow collaboration. There needs to be some legislative changes to accommodate this cooperative conservation. There needs to be some enabling legislation to allow more flexibility. E.g., Healthy Forest of 2002 mandated that communities decide who they are, how big they are, and provide opportunities for input in developing plans. This could be a model.
 - Reward Federal officials for collaboration and build into annual performance valuation.
 - Federal government should dust off the Executive Order that call for consultation with tribes. Get tribes involved from the get-go on issues. Tribes are sovereign entities (separate govt).
- C. **Local-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*
- A lot of projects should be community-driven.
 - Recognize the convening role that local governments and tribes can play in gathering the views of their respective communities.
 - Communication between federal and non-federal entities is a two way street. Recognize local groups as cooperating agencies, and the full role they can play in a lot of these processes.
 - Separating the technical and practical aspects from the political aspects of an issue.
 - States, local governments, and tribes should take the initiative and go to the federal government to leverage funds
 - Integrate the different knowledge sources, ensuring prioritization so that all social and economic communities benefit, ensuring environmental justice.
 - Put more priority on conservation issues at the local and tribal level.
- D. **Particularly insightful quotes from participants** that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.
- "It's all about relationships"
 - "You can be cynical, but we really should try to be hopeful and try cooperative ways to do these projects."

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**White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
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Topic: Expanding the Role of Tribes, States and Communities in Cooperative Conservation

Session number: 37

morning

Facilitator: Greg Wolf

Location: 131

- A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion.** *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

Emphasize spending funds on conservation actions rather than Education theme-
educate kids, public, new partners, corporations on conservation issues and building partnerships
Review authorities and make sure they support coop conservation on the ground, knowledge
Diversity-increase workforce and partners and constituents
Understanding partnerships- training fed and state employees
Need to communicate is major theme
Project based focus is a good way to integrate work and build partnerships
Conservation on the ground is most important
Tie coop conservation to urban and rural development
More volunteers and friends groups
Funding systems support collaborative conservation

- B. National-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

Transition issues-need overlap due to possible loss of expertise- feds need transition strategy to ensure continuity for coop conservation collaborations
Review policies to ensure they support collaborative conservation
Revise procurement/contracting policies to ensure they support collaborative conservation
Tie education needs to no child left behind
Training needed that is mentor driven, project focused
Revise budget process to reflect responsiveness needed for collaborative conservation
Expand the funding pie-need dedicated funds and tools for coop conservation
Train agency folks to understand tribal issues and culture
Develop financial mechanisms that allow for pooling of partner funds from various sectors- fed, state, local, tribes, ngos
Improve data integration through a common database on issue basis or on geographic basis
– all sectors enter their data into common system – collaborative groups set data needs
FACA rules are a constraint to collaboration – review FACA to recommend changes to promote collaborative conservation
Provide mechanisms for place based governance and project focused funding
connect research to on the ground needs

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C. Local-level Practical Actions *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations.*
Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.

Encourage kids to be involved in local projects for empowerment and education

Look for broad based education and outreach efforts- spend time applying coop conservation in classroom with kids-one hour per week

Develop financial mechanisms that allow for pooling of partner funds from various sectors- fed, state, local, tribes, ngos

Improve data integration through a common database on issue basis or on geographic basis
– all sectors enter their data into common system – collaborative groups set data needs

D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.

NEPA should be used as intended not as it is currently implemented (NEPA supports local collaboration and integration of envtl., social and economic factors)

Educating children about cooperative conservation is fundamental to future .

Workforce needs to reflect who is being served

We are in data hell, we need to improve data integration, coordination between agencies

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**White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
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Session number: 37

Morning

Facilitator: Elaine Marquis Brong

Location: 132

A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion.

- Sustainability culture, economics, environment – three legged stool.
- Champion
- Community organization and support.
- Tearing down turf.
- Funding.
- Institutional change.
- Increased private corporation involvement.
- Leadership.

B. National-level Practical Actions

- Fully utilize Section 6 of ESA. Exemplified – Arizona and USFWS.
- Strengthen NEPA planning section on coordinating with local plans.
- Consider impact of economic globalization on conservation.
- Develop a link between the bottom up process and top down initiative.
- Streamline in working with different states and groups to achieve a common goal.
- Develop mechanism/databases for sharing of knowledge between organizations.
- Need to inform local officials about cooperative conservation initiatives so that they understand the end point and endorse it.
- Insert conservation themes into existing training for elected officials.
- Redirect existing budgets down to more collaborative processes. Pool budgeting for multi-year utilization. Need better public knowledge of budgeting and monitoring on conservation.
- Make collaborative processes more useful to empower groups.
- Include conservation in public education.
- Provide more proactive funding mechanisms for local groups to function. Provide flexibility and long-term commitment in terms of funding for these organizations.
- Institutionalize support at all levels, local, State and Federal.
- Tribes need funding in order to build capacity and be active participants.
- Local communities need funding in order to build capacity and be active participants.
- Develop rural poverty directorate/department.
- Tie conservation education into “No Child Left Behind.”
- Federal government and Congress need to eliminate turf battles.
- Develop a better process for distributing funds based on performance (success vs. political process).
- Provide funding for land management with land acquisition.
- Get more resources to those areas under private ownership.
- Develop multiple models for marine environment, which is different than terrestrial environment.

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- Develop success based “Certification” process for NGOs.
- Compare funding against the costs of not doing.
- Develop collaborative partnerships.
- Continue exploration of co-management of Federal lands.
- Need to get line items for restoration vs. earmarks.
- Need to develop cooperative conservation as a bi-partisan issue.
- Need to establish local level support/collaboration in order to gain bi-partisan support.
- Integrate CRP with CRMP process.

C. Local-level Practical Actions

- Tribes need funding in order to build capacity and be active participants.
- Local communities need funding in order to build capacity and be active participants.
- Need to establish local level support/collaboration in order to gain bi-partisan support.
- Integrate CRP with CRMP process.

D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants

- Put pressure on Congress to change the way they do business.
- Conservation thru earmarks is not sustainable.
- Cooperative conservation does not replace conflict – it must embrace it.
- Break up Federal “Turf.”

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Morning

Facilitator: Nadine Tafoya

Location: 230

A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion. *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

The need for agencies to relate to Tribes as individual nations, and recognize the importance of sovereignty and distinct differences of each Tribe.

Early clarification of reasonable expectations is important to collaboration.

Need to build trust relationships and recognition of the importance and fragility of trust.

Continuity of agency staff engaged in processes and the need to maintain collaborative efforts despite changes in personnel.

Importance of mutual education about culture, history, decision-making processes, organizational structure and operation, political constraints, missions.

Teaching our kids and youth about conservation and preparing them for leadership.

Feds need to invest resources in collaborative process and ensure dependable funding available for duration of projects and processes.

Develop understanding about tribes and their unique relationship to the environment.

Importance of indigenous knowledge and local community knowledge.

Need for communities to be proactive and convene processes.

B. National-level Practical Actions *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

Consolidate funding sources for collaborative efforts and establish a repository for information about resources available at all levels.

Existing regulations and directives don't reflect this way of doing business – need regulations to focus more on cooperative approaches and allow more flexibility.

Fund training for collaboration skills in addition to technical knowledge.

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Provide training on process for all levels.

Tribes need to take responsibility for learning about the policies and regulations that impact them.

Federal government perspective on states is too limited. Feds need to learn more about states and how they function and why they do what they do.

Federal agencies better engaging communities in decision-making, e.g. invite community members to staff meetings.

Capture and build on past successes.

C. Local-level Practical Actions *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

Local communities should be proactive in identifying their needs and convening stakeholders without waiting for agency direction.

Local communities should recognize, validate and thank leaders who are working this way.

Local communities should cultivate leaders that work this way.
Get rid of pre-conceived notions and assumptions and start fresh in each situation with a non-adversarial approach.

Keep a visual record of project or process.

Engage in more face to face communication on the ground and at all levels.

Learn more about cross-cultural communication.

Learning respect for cultural differences.

Local communities take responsibility for their place and teaching others about what they need and how they work.

Offering skills training on collaboration and teaching community about process. State universities including collaborative approaches in curriculums.

D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.

"If the process is correct, then the product is correct."

"Others have discovered that focus on the place and how they do things is important. People need to know what that place is all about and its history."

"We need to decide who is going to have a seat at our table."

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